

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

U.C. SANTA BARBARA

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCE
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9630
Phone: (805) 893-3471
Fax: (805) 893-2314
<http://www.geol.ucsb.edu>

February 22, 2016

Dr. Suzette Kimball, Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Mail Stop 100
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Director Kimball,

For a number of years, the SESAC has been concerned that high rent and space issues are having an increasingly deleterious impact on the mission, operation and morale at the Earthquake Science Center in Menlo Park.

SESAC requested a report from the Center Director, and received it during our Feb. 3-4, 2016 meeting in Salt Lake City. Steve Hickman's comprehensive report reinforced our concern that the situation will soon become untenable. Fortunately, he also presented a well-considered plan for a move of the Earthquake Science Center to space at NASA Ames. In addition to potential cost savings and a solution to the long-term space problem, the SESAC is convinced that synergy between USGS and NASA programs could enhance the research mission and morale of the Earthquake Science Center.

We appreciate that you and the Earthquake Science Center staff will need to negotiate a number of logistic and fiscal hurdles to bring this exciting plan to fruition and ensure that the new facilities at NASA Ames will be structurally sound, highly resilient, and commensurate with the requirements of a modern scientific organization. Because of the significant fiscal and scientific advantages that can accrue from the proposed move, the SESAC enthusiastically endorses the plan and urges you to move forward with implementation at the highest possible priority.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ralph J. Archuleta".

Ralph J. Archuleta, Chair of the SESAC
Research Professor and Emeritus

cc: Members, Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee (SESAC)

David Applegate, Associate Director, Natural Hazards

William Leith, Program Coordinator, Earthquake Hazards Program